

nt>

Title: Need to disburse compensation for Rabi-I season 1996-97 to the farmers of Kuttanad, Kerala, by the General Insurance Corporation.

SHRIV.M. SUDHEERAN (ALLEPPEY): Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Government to the difficulties experienced by the poor farmers of Kuttanad, Alleppey District, Kerala due to the inordinate delay in getting crop insurance compensation for the failure of crop during Rabi-I season 1996-97. The insurance premium is collected from the farmers by the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies and the commercial banks, while the farmers avail loan for cultivation from these financial institutions. The main object of the scheme is to enable the farmers to re-pay the loan whenever low yield or crop failure occur due to pest or natural calamities, so that the farmer can avail fresh loan and go for the next crop without financial strain.

The rice crop grown in Kuttanad area during Rabi-I season 1996-97 was severely damaged due to the attack of pest "GALL MIDGE". The Government of Kerala have assessed the extent of crop failure and furnished the data to the General Insurance Corporation for further action. I understand that the Crop Insurance Cell of the General Insurance Corporation, Trivandrum has recommended assistance to the extent of Rs. 1.94 crore to the farmers of this area for the Rabi-I season 1996-97. But, the farmers are yet to receive the compensation, though compensation for Rabi-II season has been disbursed in other areas.

I request the Government to intervene in the matter and ensure that the poor farmers are not denied the legal compensation for which they have paid premium in advance.